

Derby, 7 Miles below Philadelphia 25. Aug. 1777

My dear Mary

I have not the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt
of your letters by the post — There is not the best
management with the letters belonging to the army
— The General in consequence of information that the
enemies fleet are on Chesapeake Bay chang'd the
route of the army which was to the jesps, to avoid
information of Mr Howe, towards Maryland — I
believe until the enemy land in force we shall
not go much further than Wilmington which
is truly below the place — A great quantity
of flour is in the port at Wilmington as our
prospect — a neck of land of 12 miles in extent from
Christiana River to the head of it is said to be
his object which if he prefers he cuts off 2 miles
from Delaware 5 from Maryland and 2 from
Virginia — I cannot believe that General Howe
with his reduced force will canton his army
for 12 miles, and that in a country where the
air is pregnant with insects and death — Annoy the
residence in that County would reduce his army
much more than a severe contested action. others
again believe that he intends to land his troops
here and march to Philadelphia. I believe
neither of these will be in his intention — he either

either intends for Philadelphia or the N. River - I am
rather inclined to the think the former - were there is
Burgoynes success ~~was~~ certain, Howe ought to operate up
the N. River, but that is by no means the case.
~~The passage from~~
Philadelphia with its consequent addition from to General
Howe is an object of great splendor, more so than
the N. River, because how what I can find out even
if Burgoyne should get to Albany, & have from
a junction there the greatest part of the soldiers
assigned to Burgoyne, which would give infinite
power to Mr H who can bear no equal in the
list of Generals.

Our army made a very respectable show
Yesterday in marching in one column thro' Philadelphia
- The numbers were so far beyond the conception of the
Tories that they were given dumb founded - It was
not present at that time Genl Greene joyful
having made an excursion to New Jersey had not
then returned -

The jump of the militia under M'Kean
and the affairs at Fort Schuyler ~~are quite~~
continued the conduct at Ticonderoga in a striking
manner. I have even been of the opinion
that nothing but a general exertion of the people
was wanting to render them the happiest
~~people~~ ~~people~~ in the world - The conduct of the
militia seem to confirm this. You have undoubt-

the particulars. I wish you would send General
Lincoln had been there — as the officers who
were obnoxious to the people of Maryland are now
removed, no excuse can be given if they do not
send large reinforcements of soldiers to the North-
ward. The cry has been just as it might
have left New York to be a prey to her enemies
— indeed I was shocked at the language of the paper
when danger was so near — and in my opinion
this late to any one man cannot justify it —
it argues a want of patriotism and every thing
else which ought to be the cement of the
union. I know fribbling politicians will find
some excuse — and urge them with vehemence
but this will be of no avail at the bar of impor-
tunity — The union of the confederation or
the Union is of such infinite importance that
my heart turns with horror from the men or
men who would in any wise impair it — it
is so essential to our existence, that in my triumph
I damn him who has any base attachment —
whatever — this perhaps is carrying the matter
too far — but torture is not too severe to the
wretch who wantonly indulges himself with unfeeling
anxieties of any state —

Cambden Hall Jan.
Affectionately yours
Wm

Letter from my
Dear Son

N.S.C.H. C. 2.10
Ms. A. 1.25 (2)

Augt. 25. 1775

Pearl's Al

Augst 25

Colonel Sam'l Jackson
Boston